

SEVENTY-NINTH (79TH) WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

18-23 May 2026

STATEMENT

Consolidated report by the Director-General: Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board – Immunization Agenda 2030

Agenda Item 12.3

Mr. President,

Jamaica notes with concern the findings of the IA2030 Mid-term Review. While we have made strides, we must acknowledge that global progress remains off track. The persistent threats of misinformation and declining public trust require our urgent, collective action. We agree that IA2030 must now adapt to a more complex global environment—marked by fragility, displacement, and declining confidence in vaccines—while remaining focused on equity, resilience and country ownership.

Jamaica remains a steadfast champion of immunization. Despite the disruptions of the pandemic, our programme has shown phenomenal resilience. In October 2024, Jamaica was honoured with the PAHO Henry C. Smith Award for the most improved vaccination coverage in the Caribbean. By 2025, we significantly improved our second-dose MMR coverage from 83% in 2022 to an estimated 93%. For antigens such as BCG, Polio, and DTP, we are maintaining or exceeding a 95% coverage rate.

We are not resting on past laurels. To future-proof our health system, Jamaica has: (1) launched a national Electronic Immunization Registry to improve data accuracy and monitoring; (2) embedded vaccination into our Primary Health Care Reform (2021-2030), ensuring immunization is a service provided throughout the life course, and (3) developed a draft national policy for older child and adult vaccination, supported by Canada's CanGIVE project.

Jamaica stands in solidarity with the call to prioritize zero-dose and under-vaccinated children. Community engagement, local data use and life-course approaches are essential for closing immunity gaps. We must bridge the equity gap by strengthening national financing and global cooperation.

Jamaica supports the recommendations of the IA2030 Mid-Term Review and calls for accelerated, coordinated action—particularly to address inequities in fragile and vulnerable contexts. Let us use this mid-term pivot to turn recommendations into reality, ensuring that no one, anywhere, is left behind.

Thank you.